

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CU-04 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-13

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PPT-02 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OPIC-12 /160 W

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R 241110Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3598

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0565

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON REFUSED A
PASSPORT

1. SUMMARY: SAG REFUSAL OF PASSPORTS TO COLORED LABOR PARTY
LEADER LEON AND FAMILY IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO ADDITIONAL DETERIORA-
TION OF COLORED-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND TO FURTHER POLARIZE
COLORED ATTITUDES TO WHITES IN GENERAL.

2. LIONEL SAMUEL "SONNY" LEON, LEADER OF COLORED LABOR PARTY,
THE OPPOSITION GROUP IN COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
(CRC), AND HIS FAMILY WERE REFUSED PASSPORTS AUGUST 23. LEON
APPLIED JUNE 4 FOR RENEWAL OF HIS PASSPORT AND THAT OF DAUGHTER
CONSTANCE AS WELL AS ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO SON MICHAEL AND
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WIFE HELENA. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO VISIT

AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND FRANCE AT END OF YEAR WHILE WIFE PLANNED VISIT ILL DAUGHTER IN RHODESIA AND OTHER DAUGHTER INTENDED TRAVEL TO LOURENCO MARQUES.

3. SPEAKING TO A NATIONALIST GROUP AT CALEDON, CAPE PROVINCE INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER WITHOUT MENTIONING LEON BY NAME SAID ACTION WAS TAKEN AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND AFTER ALL FACTS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED "BECAUSE IT IS IN BEST INTEREST OF SOUTH AFRICA. PASSPORTS ARE REFUSED WHEN I AM CERTAIN THAT THE APPLICANTS WILL DAMAGE NOT THE NATIONAL PARTY BUT SOUTH AFRICA, ITS NAME OR ITS ECONOMY ABROAD." MULDER STATED THAT AS MINISTER OF BOTH INTERIOR AND INFORMATION HE HAD TO BE DOUBLY CAREFUL WHEN CONSIDERING PASSPORT OR VISA APPLICATIONS. HOWEVER HE TOOK UNCOMPROMISING, TOUGH LINE BY DECLARING "ONE THING IS FOR SURE, THERE WILL BE MORE PASSPORT REFUSALS AND THE NEWS-PAPERS CAN SCREAM ABOUT IT UNTIL THEY ARE BLUE IN THE FACE".

4. MULDER WENT ON TO REPEAT IRRELEVANT COMPARISON WITH US VISA PRACTICE WHICH HE MADE A WEEK EARLIER. HE ALLEGED THAT IN USA, WHICH HAD VISA SYSTEM SIMILAR TO SOUTH AFRICA, 11.55 PERCENT OF ALL VISA APPLICATIONS IN 1972 WERE REFUSED WHILE IN SA PERCENTAGE WAS ONLY 0.77. (ARGUS HAD PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT THAT COMPARISON WAS NAIVE AND MISLEADING. "US HAS INSTITUTED IMMIGRATION CHECKS FOR REASONS TO DO WITH ECONOMY AND WELL-BEING OF COUNTRY NOT PREDOMINANTLY ON A POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS BASIS AS IS APPARENT UNDER NATIONALIST ORDER OF THINGS.")

5. LEON, WHO WAS IN US ON LEADER GRANT IN LATE 1972, SPECULATED TO PRESS THAT "OBVIOUSLY GOVERNMENT DISLIKED MY STATEMENTS THAT BRITISH AND AMERICAN INVESTORS IN OUR COUNTRY SHOULD PLAY THE GAME WITH OUR PEOPLE AND MY STAND IN REGARD TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. BUT MY POLITICS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FAMILY. IT IS CLEAR GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAKE EVERYBODY ACCEPT THEIR POLICIES AND THEY ARE GOING TO DO THIS BY INTIMIDATING EVERYBODY FROM THE TOP DOWN."

6. COMMENT: LEON HAS MADE CONFLICTING REMARKS ABOUT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN. AT TIME HE HAS INDICATED US FIRMS SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM SA BUT HIS PRESENT POSITION SEEMINGLY IS THAT FIRMS ALREADY HERE SHOULD DO MORE FOR BLACKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT US SHOULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE NEW INVESTMENTS. LEON ALSO RAISED QUESTION IN CRC YESTERDAY AS TO WHETHER MEMBERS ENJOY FULL IMMUNITY. LABOR PARTY HAS TAKEN VIEW IMMUNITY IS ONLY PARTIAL AND THAT PASSPORT REFUSAL MAY BE PART OF EFFORT TO VICTIMIZE AND INTIMIDATE MEMBERS. COMING AT TIME WHEN ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH COLOREDS AND ON TOP OF RECENT CLOSURE OF COLORED UNIVERSITY, SAG ACTION CAN ONLY EXACERBATE COLORED-GOVERNMENT

RELATIONS AND COLORED-WHITE RELATIONSHIPS IN GENERAL.
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